

## “In The Spotlight” with the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Alford L. McMichael

by MGySgt James P. O’Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor



Sergeant Major McMichael enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1970 and presently serves as the Marine Corps’ senior enlisted Marine. His vast experience and prior positions of leadership are too extensive to list here. For his complete biography, please see <http://www.usmc.mil/sgtmaj/snmcl4.nsf>. Readers will recall SgtMaj McMichael’s inspirational speech given in Dallas at the DOD Worldwide Education Symposium 2000.

On 1 July 1999, he was appointed as the 14<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. I recently spoke with SgtMaj McMichael at the Marine Corps Lifelong Learning Working Group held in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Q:** “With your nonstop travel schedule, why did you feel it necessary to attend the Marine Corps Lifelong Learning Working Group in Atlanta?”

**A:** “I hope my presence signals how very important Voluntary Education is for our Marines and our Marine Corps. Education is the number one element critical to success in a multitude of other areas.”

**Q:** “How has the focus and value placed on education changed since your early days in the Marine Corps?”

**A:** “Education used to fall into the ‘nice to have’ category. As well, if a Marine pursued off-duty education, others often perceived it as detracting from the mission. Today we know that education clearly enhances mission accomplishment. Some Marines previously lacked the money or inclination to pursue further education. We’ve heard all too often about the Marine who plans to separate from the Corps to ‘go to school.’ We can do better to facilitate the pursuit of education while on active duty. We Marines know that being a good Marine means being a good citizen. Education is primary to the development of every Marine as a citizen of this great country. It is as important as the Martial Arts component of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Marine warrior. We buy state of the art technology—we need state of the art education.”

**Q:** “What do you consider to be the biggest challenge facing the delivery of Voluntary Education services to our Marines?”

**A:** “Marketing is key. Marine Corps Lifelong Learning is continually improving the VoEd product. We amplify our progress when we get the message out—who we are, what opportunities exist, and where we’re going. Getting the word out now also fuels the hope of future possibilities.”

**Q:** “How does Voluntary Education fit into the Marine Corps Quality of Life philosophy?”

**A:** “The Commandant has identified the ‘fifth element’ of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF), specifically our bases and installations. Providing the highest quality of life possible is essential. This ensures the effective ‘launching pad’ for our Marine warriors. As we develop and upgrade our facilities, our Lifelong

*Continued on page 2, McMICHAEL*

# Distance Learning

## Distance Learning news

### **DANTES External Degree Catalog update**

Add the following to the schools affiliated with DANTES:

#### **Lenoir Community College**

P.O. Box 188

321 Hwy. 58 South

Kinston, NC 28502

(252) 527-6223

**Toll free:** 800-848-5497

**Fax:** (252) 527-1199

**E-mail:** [jjw346@lenoir.cc.nc.us](mailto:jjw346@lenoir.cc.nc.us)

**Internet:** <http://www.lenoir.cc.nc.us>

*Associate in Applied Science Global Logistics*

*Associate in Applied Science Dietetic Technician*

### **Tuition increase**

#### **Thomas Edison State College,**

effective 1 September:

Tuition increase for Military Degree Completion:

**Undergraduate:** \$132 per credit

**Graduate:** \$342 per credit

### **DANTES Independent Study Catalog update**

### **Tuition increase**

#### **Oklahoma State University,**

effective 1 September:

**High School Level:** \$90 per one-half unit

**Undergraduate:** \$85 per credit hour

Shipping Fee within Conus: \$20 per course

### **VA approval of distance learning courses**

Personnel from several schools recently asked how to obtain VA approval for courses offered by distance learning, distance education, or Internet. Approval of courses does not fall under one entity at the VA. Rather, each state has its own approving agency.

Individuals having questions about approval of distance education courses or programs may call the State Approving Agency of the state in which the school has its home campus. The phone number usually can be found in the phone book under State Department of Veterans Affairs or State Department of Education.

### **McMICHAEL** **FROM 1**

Learning/Education Centers should be a part of that upgrade. This should include computer access to educational learning tools via Learning Resource Centers for Marines and their families."

**Q:** "What would you identify as present initiatives that perpetuate the Marine Corps' Lifelong Learning philosophy?"

**A:** "The Lifelong Learning philosophy includes a number of active services, programs and initiatives that each contribute to better serving our Marines. First, our Voluntary Education Professionals located on Marine Corps

installations worldwide are second to none. They provide vital education support to our Marines. This support is provided despite limited resources. Mr. Vernon Taylor, Head of Code MRV (Marine Corps Lifelong Learning) and his dedicated staff are committed to supporting these professionals. We continue to see progress and promotion of the services and programs available to Marines. Programmatic examples include the Military Academic Skills Program (MASP), the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP), the Marine Corps Satellite Education Network (MCSEN), and the Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART).

**Q:** "Would you share your vision of how you see Lifelong Learning growing in its outreach to our Marines?"

**A:** "The continuum of education for Marines must span from 'GED to Ph.D.' This includes many players and overlapping programs and services. We need to actively assess Marines who fall short academically early in their careers. We give them every opportunity for success to develop basic academic skills through contact with their Lifelong Learning Counselors utilizing the various programs and services available, like the MASP. Encouraging Marines early promotes scholastic confidence and achievement before enlisted Marines become Staff Noncommissioned Officers (Staff NCOs). Once Marines join the Staff NCO ranks, increas-

*Continued on page 6, McMICHAEL*

## Calendar

### August

2 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)

### September

21-25 Praxis\*  
30 Sep-4 Oct CLEP General English Composition w/Essay\*

### October

4 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)  
5 LSAT

### November

7, 12, 14 ASE Conus  
11-16 GRE Subject\*  
12, 13, 14 ASE Overseas  
23-27 Praxis\*

### December

6 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)  
16-21 GRE Subject\*

### Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders 6 weeks before the test date. Conus test centers send orders 4 weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

\*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

<http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/exam/01-02htm>

**Reminder: The SAT Program shuts down scoring in late summer. Do not schedule SAT testing in July/August. See DEPH SAT Chapter 3.**

## GRE General to include analytical component

Effective 1 October 2002, the GRE General Test will be composed of verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing sections. The content and scoring of the verbal and quantitative sections will not change. The new analytical writing section will be identical to the stand-alone Writing Assessment Test and will replace the current analytical measure.

DANTES will continue to fund the GRE General through the present reimbursement system. The test fee



for the new exam is \$115 Conus and \$140 Overseas. (DANTES does not fund the existing stand-alone Writing Assessment Test.)

## ASE offers range of exams for Fall administration

The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) offers certification examinations in eight areas of automobile repair, eight areas of medium/heavy truck repair, five areas of collision repair/refinishing, three areas of engine machinist tests, six school bus tests, two parts tests, one light vehicle compressed natural gas test, and two advanced engine performance specialist test.

The deadline date for DANTES Test Centers to order ASE examinations for the Fall 2002 cycle is 13

September. Test administration dates are 7, 12, 14 November Conus and 12, 13, 14 November Overseas.



Overseas dates may change due to availability of exam materials from the printer for earliest shipment. Registration forms must be received by ASE by the deadline date. Do not send orders to DANTES as this

delays the process.

Further information is available online at <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes>.

# Training

## May the squirrel rest in peace

The DANTES training department conducted a regional workshop at Old Dominion University (ODU) in Norfolk, Virginia on 22 and 23 May. DANTES program managers and personnel from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, the American Council on Education, and ODU provided timely updates on their programs and services.

The first day kicked off with a warm welcome by Old Dominion University President Roseann Runte. She in-

train will be capable of speeds up to 300 miles per hour, but with one mile of track, full speed ahead may be more than the passengers bargain for! The day proceeded as scheduled, ending with a reception hosted by Old Dominion and a demonstration of their distance learning programs at the Albert Brooks Gronto Jr. TELETECHNET Center.

Those of us stuck back in the “pre-high tech” days certainly got an eye-opener with our visit to the TELETECHNET Center. This past

classes at community colleges, military installations, libraries, and corporations with no Virginian more than 50 miles from a TELETECHNET site.

So where does the squirrel come into all this? Well, day two proved to be quite a challenge for the DANTES staff and presenters. Some participants found it difficult to arrive on time as traffic lights in the area were affected by a power outage. Presenters stepped up to the challenge by using battery-powered laptops to deliver their message. With no windows in the restrooms, a flashlight obtained from the ODU maintenance staff was very much appreciated. Thank goodness the coffee was already made! Throughout the day, the power would come and go, but the cafeteria still managed to serve lunch. It appeared our closing speaker, Dr. Robert MacDonald, would be able to show his overheads, when the power went out yet again. Five minutes before he was finished, it came back on!

As Vince Lombardi said, “We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails.” Presenters and workshop participants certainly “adjusted their sails” to ensure a beneficial training experience for all.

And the squirrel? Well, I don’t know exactly how they determined it was some poor squirrel touching two separate power lines that caused the outages, but that was what was reported in the newspaper. Needless to say, while we were able to survive the experience, the squirrel did not.

If you have any training questions or comments, please contact Betty Keese, DANTES Training Manager, at DSN 922-1884 or (850) 452-1884 or E-mail [bkeese@voled.doded.mil](mailto:bkeese@voled.doded.mil).



***During a power outage, Pat Landry, DANTES, delivers her battery-powered presentation on Voluntary Education Internet Resources at the DANTES Regional Workshop in Norfolk, Virginia.***

formed the group that nearly thirty percent of the University’s student population has a military connection, including active duty, retired, and military family members. She also mentioned an exciting new project at ODU—the first magnetic train of its type is being built on the campus. The

year officers aboard the submarine USS Montpelier were the first to receive graduate courses via CD-ROM in a new ODU distance learning program that is now offered Navy-wide. In another first, the Navy “ships at sea” program offering M.B.A. classes to deployed Sailors, delivered courses on both the east and west coasts, simultaneously broadcasting courses to three battle groups. It was impressive to find out students attend



## Online Education Center Directory reaches milestone

The Education Directory reached a milestone this past June as it surpassed 8,776 connections. The 8,776 connections were the highest prior total for FY01. We will continue to set a new record in FY02 surpassing each of the past 2 years. Expectations are that we will finish FY02 with nearly 10,500 connections.

The numbers are great, but you—the education centers and counselors in the field who continually update the address, phone numbers, and E-mail address of all your locations—have provided your counseling partners worldwide with quick and valid contact information. We have all contributed, and continue to contribute, to the most useful *Directory of Education Centers* available in DOD.

## DISCOVER program still available

There are still a few software programs available to centers wishing to use them. Please contact [vharmon@voled.doded.mil](mailto:vharmon@voled.doded.mil) or call DSN: 922-1884, or fax 850-452-1588.

## Worldwide 2003 to include MBTI, STRONG, and Kuder sessions

There will be no MBTI, Strong, Kuder, or CISS training sessions during the months before the DOD Worldwide Symposium in Orlando, 7-11 July 2003. If you're interested in attending some of these training sessions in Orlando, please keep reviewing the agenda information as it is printed and sign up for your training when early registration begins.

## New reference booklets available

DANTES has purchased two new reference booklets for military education centers:



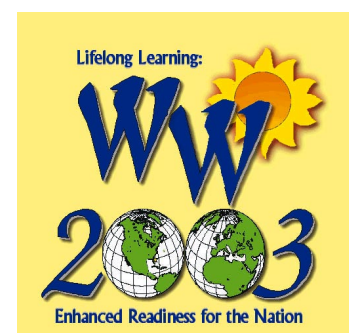
- ◆ *College Success Tips for Adult Learners*
- ◆ *Quick Guide to College Majors and Careers*

The first booklet is a short, simple, to-the-point guide that gives adults valuable tips on how to succeed in college. It includes such things as 10 myths about colleges, an explanation of accreditation, information on colleges **and** vocational schools, and how to write term papers, make speeches, and take tests.

The second booklet matches college majors to careers. It presents an overview of the careers available to

those with degrees in specific subject areas.

If your education center is interested in ordering these booklets, go to <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/distctr/refs.htm> for the stock number and ordering information, or contact Ms. Sheila Nyjordet, DANTES Reference Publications Manager, at [snyjorde@voled.doded.mil](mailto:snyjorde@voled.doded.mil) or DSN 922-1763 or (850) 452-1763.



## DOD WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

7-11 July 2003

Orlando World Center  
Marriott Resort &  
Convention Center  
Orlando, Florida

For Symposium information,  
go to

<http://www.ww-003.com>

# From the Advisor's Desk

McMICHAEL

FROM 2



MGySgt O'Keefe

ingly these 'degreed' Marines will comprise the faculties of our Staff NCO Academies. This will not only enhance the quality of instruction; it will also validate the Professional Military Education (PME) course curriculum, leading to the assessment of recommended college credit equivalencies for military training and experience.

This integrated approach also speaks to the recruiting and retention benefits of education. Remember, our Marine recruiters must not only appeal to the prospective recruit. Recruiters must sell the entire family. Educational benefits and opportunities available to Marines are an important recruiting tool.

Speaking to the retention effort, the local command Career Retention Specialist will serve to identify education levels and aspirations early and provide educational information and referral to the local Marine Corps Lifelong Learning Center. As well, we will facilitate the transition of separating Marines into civilian life via the 'Marine for Life' program. This program supports transitioning Marines. For example, transitioning Marines will be provided a free E-mail account to use through their transition period. The Hometown Links will nurture their local Marine and Marine-friendly connections and stand ready to assist Transitioning

Marines on the issues facing them when they leave active Service. Marine for Life will provide information on significant issues such as employment, housing, schools for children, adult education for themselves, and more. Again, this ties into Marines returning back to civilian life as contributors to their communities and as good citizens. As you can see, this 'big picture' has

invited all Marines to do 'what is good for the Institution—not the Installation.' This has been my focus. Most rewarding is having the opportunity to serve and fight for the programs and resources that help make our Marines better prepared to meet the challenges ahead."

For more information on the Marine for Life Program, visit <https://>



*The Marine Corps Lifelong Learning Working Group, Atlanta, Georgia, 11-13 June 2002*

many important players. We are working on the integration of these players. And this vision is becoming a reality."

**Q:** "What is the most rewarding aspect of your role as the Marine Corps' senior enlisted Marine?"

**A:** "In July of 1999, the Commandant of the Marine Corps

[www.marineforlife.com/mfl.nsf](http://www.marineforlife.com/mfl.nsf)

For more information on programs and services available through the Marine Corps Lifelong Learning Program, visit [http://www.usmc-mces.org/perssvc/Life\\_Learn/life\\_learn\\_main.asp](http://www.usmc-mces.org/perssvc/Life_Learn/life_learn_main.asp).

Do you have a Success Story? E-mail me at [jokeefe@voled.doded.mil](mailto:jokeefe@voled.doded.mil).

# ACME highlights Florida Council

by David Sutton, President, Florida ACME



Florida and the military have a very **long** history. Don Tristan de Luna founded a small military settlement in Pensacola in 1559. Unfortunately, Florida also has a long history with hurricanes. Shortly after its founding, a hurricane came through and government housing being as it was in the 1500's....

Another explorer, Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles, started a military settlement in St. Augustine in 1565, making St. Augustine the oldest continuous settlement in North America. One can just

mid-1970s. ACME was formed under the umbrella of the Commissioner of Education with the Board of Independent Colleges and Universities acting as host agency.

ACME brought together the principle agents in voluntary education, education personnel from the military installations, personnel from educational institutions (public and private), as well as state and DOD representatives involved in education.

The ACME served to provide a direct conduit to the Commissioner of

While still called the Florida ACME, the organization's membership includes representatives from Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and even Virginia. Jokingly, it is said the geographical boundaries of old Spanish Florida are used for membership. Membership is open to those involved in voluntary education for the military regardless of location.

A conference is held in the spring and fall. Mysteriously, for years the membership has chosen to hold the spring conference in Key West with the fall conference in various locations in central and northern Florida. Conference attendance ranges from 60 to 75. The conferences have earned a reputation for casual attire, great food, and outstanding opportunities for networking and information updates.

The focus of ACME has not changed since its inception and is reflected in its motto, "Supporting Those Who Serve." The 2002 Fall conference will be in St. Augustine, 5-7 November. Attend and be part of 500 years of military history!

For more information, visit the web site at <http://www.fla-acme.org>.



*Old City, St. Augustine*

imagine the VolEd offerings of the time— "Cooking with alligator," "A hundred fun things to do with mosquitoes" and no doubt the most popular "Invest in Florida real estate **now** before the rush."

Inexplicably, Florida waited some 400 years to organize a formal group concerning VolEd. The Florida Advisory Council on Military Education (ACME) began in the

Education and the legislature. An early accomplishment was assisting in the creation of a statute providing resident tuition status for Servicemembers/dependents. Over the years, ACME has taken on more of an independent status from the Department of Education, but maintains its advisory input to the Department and the Commissioner.



# DANTES Information

## DANTES

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Tuition Assistance	1085	1005	<a href="mailto:tahelp@voled.doded.mil">tahelp@voled.doded.mil</a>
Certification	1360	1161	<a href="mailto:winborne@voled.doded.mil">winborne@voled.doded.mil</a>
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